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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties

3. Special action

   (a) urgent action for Africa

   (b) action taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its tenth session

GE.96-64146

Annotations to the agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Arrangements have been made for the tenth session to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 6-17 January 1997.

At the ninth session, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the tenth session, as contained in the report of the ninth session (Document A/51/76/Add.1). The provisional agenda is submitted for adoption.

A list of documents for the session and other documents of relevance is provided in Annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the Secretariat's world wide web site at the following address on the Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/>. A tentative schedule of work is provided in Annex II.

The session will be opened by the Chairman of the Committee at 10:00 a.m., on 6 January. The brief opening session will be immediately followed by meetings of regional groups to be continued in the afternoon, as well as the morning of Tuesday, 7 January. The Plenary will resume on the afternoon of Tuesday, 7 January, at which time it will hear statements from the Chairman of the Committee and the Executive Secretary, who will present an overview of issues before the Committee at the tenth session and will introduce the documents prepared by the Secretariat.

Under this agenda item, the Committee will also review document A/AC.241/9/Add.13 on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations.

The Bureau will meet, prior to the opening of the session, at 6 p.m., on 5 January, 1997.

The Contact Group established by decision of the Committee [9/2] will meet at 6.30 p.m. on 8 January, 1997.

2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties

This agenda item refers to issues which require a decision at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or soon thereafter. The INCD continued work on these issues at its ninth session in two Working Groups, in accordance with resolution 6/1 on the organization and programme of work for the interim period.

The current status of each issue is set out below.

Plenary Issues:

Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - in accordance with its decision [9/2], the Group will have before it for consideration document A/AC.241/63 presented by the interim secretariat, in consultation with the three Governments concerned, comparing the major elements of the offers of the Governments of Canada, Germany and Spain, contained in documents A/AC.241/55/Add.1, Add.2 and Add. 3, to host the Permanent Secretariat at Montreal, Bonn and Murcia, respectively.

Working Group One Issues:

(a) *Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning*: the Group will have before it,

(i) for further consideration, in accordance with its decision [9/7], document A/AC.241/WG.I(VII)/L.1 submitted by Uganda on behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and

(ii) for consideration, in accordance with its decision [9/7], a written compilation (document A/AC.241/64) of questions of members of the INCD concerning the offers of the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to provide overall administrative support to the Permanent Secretariat, along with the answers provided.

(b) *Financial rules*: consistent with its decision [9/8], the Group will have before it Annex 1 to Decision 9/8 in the report on the ninth session (document A/51/76/Add.1), containing a revised version of the draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat, taking into account the views expressed by delegations at the ninth session.

(c) *Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism*: in accordance with its decision [9/6], the Group will have before it Annex 1 to Decision 9/6 in the report on the ninth session (document A/51/76/Add.1), containing the draft text on the functions of the Global Mechanism and the criteria for selecting an institution to house it for further consideration, particularly of its section A, paragraph 4.

(d) *Programme and Budget* - in accordance with its decision [8/3], the Group will have before it for consideration document A/AC.241/65, a draft programme of work of the Conference of the Parties and the budget estimates of the Convention for the first financial period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

Working Group Two Issues:

(a) *Organization of scientific and technological cooperation*: the Group will have before it

(i) in accordance with its decision [9/11], a report (document A/AC.241/66) on a draft proposed programme of work for the Committee on Science and Technology based on contributions submitted by INCD members by October 15 1996, and

(ii) in accordance with its decision [9/11], a report (document A/AC.241/67) on the work of the bodies of other relevant organisations and Conventions performing work similar to the work envisaged to be undertaken by the Committee on Science and Technology, and possible areas of cooperation with such bodies.

(b) *Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties*: in accordance with its decision [9/13], the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/48/Rev.2 providing a revised text reflecting deliberations in the Group at the ninth session.

(c) *Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation*: in accordance with its decision [9/12], the Group will have before it document A/AC.241/68 reporting further on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention.

3. Special action: urgent action for Africa and actions taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions

The Plenary will continue its examination of measures taken to implement the resolution on urgent measures for Africa, as well as actions taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean and Northern Mediterranean regions. Discussions will be organized by regions and by themes regarding issues arising in the progress of interim action.

The Executive Secretary will report on measures taken by the Secretariat to facilitate urgent measures for Africa and actions taken in other regions as well as on cooperation with relevant bodies or agencies and coordination with other conventions.

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention

The Executive Secretary will present a status report on this item. The Committee may wish to consider whether any action is required to promote ratification and accession.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

The Committee will have before it document A/AC.241/69 submitted by the Secretariat indicating the present status and funding needs of the Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries, and the Trust Fund for the negotiating process.

6. Adoption of the report of the session

A draft report on the work of the session will be presented for consideration by the Committee, in accordance with established practice.

ANNEX I

List of documents for the tenth session of the Committee

A/AC.241/62	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/63	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location
A/AC.241/64	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements
A/51/76/Add.1	Report on ninth session containing, as Annex to Decision 9/8, draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat
A/51/76/Add.1	Report on ninth session containing, as Annex to Decision 9/6, draft text on the functions of the Global Mechanism and the criteria for selecting an institution to house it
A/AC.241/65	Programme and budget
A/AC.241/66	Report on a draft proposed programme of work for the Committee on Science and Technology
A/AC.241/48/Rev.2	Draft Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/67	Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology
A/AC.241/68	Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in implementation of the Convention, its subsidiary bodies and Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/69	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.13	List of non-governmental organisations recommended for accreditation

Other documents of relevance

Secretariat documents:

Fifth session

A/AC.241/27	Final text of the Convention

Sixth session

A/AC.241/28	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/29	Work programme for the interim period and preparation for the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/30 & Add.1	Compilation of information on implementation of the resolution on urgent measures for Africa
A/AC.241/31	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

Seventh session

A/AC.241/32	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/33	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/34	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
A/AC.241/35	Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/36	Programme and budget
A/AC.241/37	Organization of scientific and technical cooperation

A/AC.241/38	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/39	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/40	Implementation of urgent action for Africa and action in other regions: compilation of information
A/AC.241/41	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/41/Add.1	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.10	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

Eighth session

A/AC.241/42	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/43	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/44	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
A/AC.241/45	Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/46	Programme and budget
A/AC.241/47	Organization of scientific and technical cooperation
A/AC.241/48	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/49	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/50	Procedures to resolve questions on implementation
A/AC.241/51	Procedures for conciliation and arbitration
A/AC.241/52	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/52/Add.1	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.11	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

Ninth session

A/AC.241/53	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/53/Corr.1	Corrigendum of document A/AC.241/53 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/54	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location
A/AC.241/54/Add.1	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of Canada
A/AC.241/54/Add.2	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
A/AC.241/54/Add.3	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of Spain
A/AC.241/55	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements
A/AC.241/55/Add.1	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements - Offer of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
A/AC.241/55/Add.2	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements - Offer of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

A/AC.241/55/Add.3	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements - Offer of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
A/AC.241/45/Rev.1	Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/56	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/57	Organization of scientific and technical cooperation
A/AC.241/48/Rev.1	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/49/Rev.1	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/58	Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention
A/AC.241/59	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.12	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

Report of past INCD sessions:

A/49/84/Add.2	Report of the INCD on its fifth session
A/50/74	Report of the INCD on its sixth session
A/50/74/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its seventh session
A/50/76	Report of the INCD on its eighth session
A/51/76/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its ninth session

General Assembly resolutions:

Resolution 47/188 of 2 December 1992

- Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 49/115 of 19 December 1994

- Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

Any resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session relating to the Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification,particularly in Africa.

ANNEX II
Tentative schedule of work

Date	Plenary	Working group I	Working group II
Monday, 6 January A.M.10:00	Adoption of agenda and organization of work; (Doc. A/AC.241/62) followed by meetings of regional groups	------	------
P.M.15:00	Meetings of regional groups	------	------
Tuesday 7 January A.M. 10:00	Meetings of regional groups	------	------
P.M. 15:00	Introductory statements; status of signature and ratification; NGO accreditation (Doc. A/AC.241/9/Add.13)	------	------
Wednesday, 8 January A.M.10:00	-------	Global Mechanism (Doc. A/51/76/Add.1)	Rules of procedure (Doc. A/AC.241/48/ Rev.2)
P.M.15:00	------	Global Mechanism (Doc. A/51/76/Add.1)	Communication of information and review of implementation: similar bodies (Doc. A/AC.241/67)
Thursday, 9 January A.M.10:00	------	Global Mechanism (Doc. A/51/76/Add.1)	S&T cooperation - draft work programme (Doc. A/AC.241/66)
P.M.15:00	------	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat: administrative arrangements (Doc. A/AC.241/64)	S&T cooperation - draft work programme (Doc. A/AC.241/66)

Friday, **10 January** **A.M.10:00** **P.M.15:00**	------	Financial rules (Doc. A/51/76/Add.1) Programme & Budget (Doc. A/AC.241/65)	Communication of info and review of implementation; benchmarks and indicators (Docs.A/AC.241/68) ------
Monday, **13 January** **A.M. 10:00** P.M. 15:00	Review of progress; comparison of offers relating to location of permanent secretariat (Doc. A/AC.241/63); review of situation as regards extrabudgetary funds (Doc. A/AC.241/69)	[To be determined] " "	[To be determined] " "
Tuesday, **14 January** **A:M. 10:00** **P.M. 15:00**	------ ------	[To be determined] " "	[To be determined] " "
Wednesday, **15 January** **A.M. 10:00** **P.M: 15:00**	Urgent action for Africa and interim actions in Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions " "	------ ------	------ ------
Thursday, **16 January** **A.M. 10:00** **P.M. 15:00**	------ ------	------ ------	------ ------
Friday, **17 January** **A.M. 10:00**	Adoption of report of tenth session	------	------

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TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

DESIGNATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FUNCTIONING: PHYSICAL LOCATION

Note by the Secretariat

Compilation of information from potential host Governments

1. INCD decision 9/2, adopted at the Committee's ninth session, noted with gratitude the offers of Canada, Germany and Spain, contained in documents A/AC.241/54/Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3, to host the Permanent secretariat at Montreal, Bonn and Murcia, respectively. It also requested the Chairman of the Committee to establish a contact group, with appropriate participation by the Governments of Canada, Germany and Spain, to clarify these offers as necessary and to discuss appropriate procedures enabling the first session of the Conference of the Parties to take a decision on this matter. It further requested the Secretariat to present, in consultation with the three Governments concerned, for consideration at the tenth session of the Committee, a document comparing the major elements of the three offers. The Committee decided to consider this item further in plenary meetings at its tenth session on the basis of the deliberations of the contact group established in accordance with paragraph 1 and the document requested in paragraph 2 of the decision.

2. On 4 October 1996, the Secretariat met in Geneva with representatives of the three Governments to consult with them on the format and contents of the present document. At that meeting, the Secretariat presented an initial draft of this document for their review. It was agreed that a summary of the three submissions would be presented in a comparative table prepared by the Secretariat. After receiving inputs and clarifications from the three Governments, the Secretariat revised the document accordingly.

3. The comparative table containing the major elements of the three offers is contained in Annex I to the present note. The structure of the table closely follows the criteria contained in Annex A of document A/AC.241/54.

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ANNEX I

Comparison of Major Features of Offers from Canada, Germany and Spain to Host Permanent Secretariat in Montreal, Bonn and Murcia, Respectively

(According to criteria in Document A/AC.241/54, Annex A)

A. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Criteria	Canada/Montreal	Germany/Bonn	Spain/Murcia
1(a). Privileges/ immunities of Secretariat	Similar to those of existing international organizations in Montreal[1] (such as Biodiversity Secretariat, ICAO, Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund)	Same as Climate Change Secretariat and UN Volunteers Programme, both now in Bonn	Similar to those of diplomatic missions and international organizations based in Spain (such as World Tourism Organization, International Olive Oil Council, European Union Bureau of Patents)
1(b). Privileges/ immunities of staff members	Same as accorded to staff of Biodiversity Secretariat and other UN organisations[1]; all staff members, regardless of their nationality exempt from taxation on salaries and allowances paid by Secretariat	Same as accorded to staff of Climate Change secretariat and UN Volunteers Programme; all staff members, regardless of their nationality, exempt from taxation on salaries and allowance paid by Secretariat	Similar to those of non-Spanish staff members of other international organizations indicated above

[1] Details contained in Appendix C of Canada offer.

Criteria	Canada/Montreal	Germany/Bonn	Spain/Murcia
1(c). Privileges/ immunities of attendees at meetings and experts	No entry restrictions for representatives and experts to meetings; visas for press/ observers, as required. Facilitation of entry/exit/stay of representatives and experts[2]	No entry restrictions; facilitation of visas: right of unimpeded entry into, exit from, and free movement and sojourn within Germany; visas, entry permits or licenses, where required, granted free of charge and as promptly as possible[3]	Facilitation of entry/exit/stay of Parties' representatives and experts; see page 6 and 8 of Spanish offer; observers and media would be accorded same facilities
2. Rules regarding employment of staff members' dependents	Authorization to accept employment in Canada for spouses and children living at home (as defined in Appendix C of Canadian offer); assistance for spouses of senior officers seeking employment	Access to labour market, without work permit, for spouses and children living at home as well as assistance seeking employment	Access to labour market for spouses of management or administrative officials defined on pages 7-8 of Spanish offer; active institutional support to dependents seeking employment
3. Nature of headquarters agreement	Modeled on agreements with existing UN organizations in Canada such as Biodiversity Secretariat and UN University	Secretariat to be included in agreement with UN for the UN Volunteers Programme	Headquarters agreement would be concluded as in case of other international organizations in Spain

[2] Visas granted free of charge and as promptly as possible; privileges and immunities similar to those granted to participants in Biodiversity, ICAO and UN University; experts will enjoy the privileges and immunities provided for in Article 6 of the UN Convention on privileges and immunities. For more details see Appendix C of Canada offer.

[3] Arrangements would also be made to ensure that visas, entry permits or licenses, where required for persons entering Germany on official business of the Convention, are delivered at the port of entry to the Federal Republic of Germany to those persons who were unable to obtain them elsewhere prior to their arrival. All persons invited to participate in the official business of the Convention would enjoy immunity from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity. Such immunity would continue to be accorded after termination of their business. They would also be accorded inviolability for all papers and documents. Experts performing missions for the Convention Secretariat would be accorded such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions (see Article VI and VII of the 1946 Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations)

B. FEATURES OF OFFICE SITE AND RELATED FINANCIAL ISSUES

Criteria	Canada/Montreal	Germany/Bonn	Spain/Murcia
4(a). Features of office site: office space	Temporary housing of Secretariat, free of charge; assistance in negotiating suitable permanent quarters in preferred building in heart of city. Offer is analogous to that of Biodiversity Secretariat	Space available for unlimited time, with square meterage to be determined; offer is analogous to that of, and in same building as, the Secretariat of Climate Change Convention	Space totalling 1100 square meters, configured to Secretariat's needs in newly constructed building with advanced technology for environment efficiency and ten parking spaces; Secretariat could temporarily be housed at "Casa de las Aguas", located outside the city with sufficient useful space
4(b). Features of office site: conference facilities	Meeting rooms for ongoing needs of Secretariat; free access to facilities of Montreal International Conference Centre Corporation (MICCC) with conference rooms of various sizes, and, at nominal charge to new state-of-the-art ICAO facilities, with capacity of 1400; access to modern facilities of the Montreal Conference Centre accommodating up to 12,000 participants	Meeting rooms for ongoing needs of Secretariat; access to modern conference facilities, including new centre accommodating several thousand attendees; use of German Government guesthouse for special events (see point 10(a))	Meeting rooms for ongoing needs of Secretariat; access to modern conference centre with 1800 persons capacity
4(c). Features of office site: availability of general services	All services readily available	All services readily available	All services readily available
5(a). Ownership of office site	Landlord of building selected	Government of Germany	Government of Spain and Autonomous Government of Murcia Region

Criteria	Canada/Montreal	Germany/Bonn	Spain/Murcia
5(b). Rental arrangements for office site	Rent free for initial period (duration dependent on building selected, up to 5 years); possibility of review of these arrangements after initial 5 year period; $CAN 700,000 (USD 500,000) contribution, for five years	Rent free for unlimited time	Rent free
6(a). Responsibility for major maintenance/ repairs at office site	Landlord of building selected	German Government	Government of Spain and Autonomous Government of Murcia Region
6(b). Responsibility for normal maintenance/ repairs at office site, utilities and other operating expenses	Landlord of building for rent-free period (see pages 4-5 of Canadian offer and sections 5 to 8 of "Details concerning the Montreal bid" distributed to delegations at INCD IX)	Secretariat	Secretariat
6(c). Responsibility for costs of installation at office site	Government agency (MICCC)	Government of Germany	Government of Spain and Autonomous Government of Murcia Region
7. Responsibility for furnishing/ equipping office site	Contributions from Canada, Province of Quebec and City of Montreal available to pay these costs totally (see 10(a) below)	German Government responsible, including for communications/ computer equipment	Government of Spain and Autonomous Government of Murcia Region responsible, including for computer systems/ communications links
8. Duration of office site arrangements	Five or ten year lease with option to renew	Indefinite	Indefinite

C. LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONDITIONS

Criteria	Canada/Montreal	Germany/Bonn	Spain/Murcia
9(a). Diplomatic representation in host city	Significant representation; 85 consulates and 65 ICAO representatives in Montreal; over 120 diplomatic missions in Ottawa (2 hrs by train or car, 175 km); one hour by air to permanent missions to UN in New York	Significant representation, even after parts of German Government move to Berlin (1 hours flight). Brussels with EU headquarters, diplomatic missions of countries and representation of all types of organisations 2 hrs away by train or car.	Diplomatic representations of over 90 countries in Madrid, which is under an hour by air from Murcia and well connected by road and rail.
9(b). Presence of international and other organizations in host city	Presence of some 50 international organizations and NGOs, including ICAO, Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, Biodiversity Secretariat, North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation; also research organisations and relevant private sector entities	Presence of international organizations, including Climate Change Secretariat; also research organisations and relevant private sector entities; see pages 5-6 of German offer	Presence of relevant international programmes, research organisations and private sector entities specialized in the in the combat against desertification. European Union Bureau of Patents 60 kms away in Alicante[4][5].

[4] See page 5 of Spanish offer and "Murcia, in the Midst of a Struggle Against Desertification and Drought" distributed to delegations at ninth session of INCD.

[5] Additional programmes include:

(a) European Union MEDALUS project and the experimental station of the Superior Scientific Research Centre of Almeria, which also works on protection of species in the Sahara;

(b) thematic centre on soils of the European Union, headquartered in Valencia;

(c) European Union EFEDA project on the atmospheric components of desertification; and

(d) LUCDEME project, developed by the Centre for the Management of Nature Conservation and Environment of Murcia.

Criteria	Canada/Montreal	Germany/Bonn	Spain/Murcia
9(c). International transport/ travel facilities in host city	Good international connections from Montreal airports (Dorval - 15 minutes from downtown Montreal - and Mirabel - 45 minutes from downtown Montreal), served by over 60 airlines	Good international connections; see page 5 of German offer	Good national and international airline connections through airport of San Javier y Altet at Alicante, 60 kms from Murcia
9(d). Local transportation facilities in host city	Excellent, low-cost local transportation network (bus/metro/ train)	Excellent local transportation network	Excellent local transportation in a medium-sized city without large urban agglomeration
9(e). Availability of relevant trained personnel in host city	Large pool of multilingual workers; assistance to Secretariat in finding staff locally	Qualified staff available; assistance to secretariat in finding staff locally	Availability of qualified personnel in regions affected by desertification, where important technological and research centres in the fields of environment and desertification are located
9(f). Access of staff members to health facilities in host city	Free access by Secretariat staff to high-quality facilities	High-quality facilities available	High-quality facilities available
9(g). Availability of suitable housing in host city	High-quality, affordable, centrally-located housing readily available	Housing readily available at reasonable rents	Good housing facilities at low-cost[6]; appropriate housing provided for Executive Secretary
9(h). Availability of schools at all levels in host city	Excellent schooling at all levels in English and French; staff members treated like Quebec residents; free elementary and secondary education and private schooling in other languages as well; low fees for universities	Excellent schooling at all levels; staff members pay no fees at German state schools and universities; several foreign and bilingual schools available	Apart from education in Spanish, there are French and English schools in Murcia and Alicante; University of Murcia has more than 30,000 students in its different faculties

[6] Touristic zone with 250 km of coast, 89 hotels, 123 hostels, 2167 apartments. The number of travellers in these facilities in 1995 was 439,999 and visitors to this region is around 2,000,000 annually

Criteria	Canada/Montreal	Germany/Bonn	Spain/Murcia
9(i). Facilities for funds transfer by Secretariat and staff members	No restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions

D. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Criteria	Canada/Montreal	Germany/Bonn	Spain/Murcia
10(a). Additional contributions by host government (beyond those covered above)	Grants to Secretariat totalling $CAN 5.53 million (USD 3.95 million) over five year period from Governments of Montreal, Quebec and Canada; loan for five years of services of two professionals for management/ administrative support at value of $CAN 1.05 million (USD 750,000); provision of $CAN 70,000 (USD 50,000) in services by MICCC to help organize international meetings in Montreal	Annual contribution of DM 1 million (USD 660,000) for Convention events; annual voluntary contribution of DM 1 million (USD 660,000) to Secretariat beyond commitments as Party, both for unlimited time	Spain offers more than USD 1 million annually for projects on desertification conducted by the Secretariat
10(b). Support to INCD process by host government	Significant support for INCD process and desertification control more generally; see Appendices A and B of Canadian offer	Significant support for INCD process and desertification control more generally; see pages 3-4 of German offer	Significant support for INCD process and desertification control more generally, consistent with Spain's location in Mediterranean region and its tradition of dealing with desertification, including migration issues, as an affected country and as a donor; see pages 1-3 of Spanish offer and page 21 of document "Murcia, in the Midst of a Struggle Against Desertification and Drought"

Criteria	Canada/Montreal	Germany/Bonn	Spain/Murcia
11(a). Support for relocation of Secretariat (beyond 6(i) above) and for removal and installation of staff members	Facilitation of installation of Secretariat and of access to essential services by non-Canadian staff members	German Government pays for Secretariat relocation, moving staff to Bonn, installation grants, German language courses; support also given in the form of practical assistance by special "UN-hot-line"	Government of Spain and Autonomous Government of Murcia Region contribute to relocation expenses of Secretariat
11(b). Cost of operations and living	Very favourable compared to major cities in Europe/ North America, including the other candidate cities based on UN Cost of Living index[7], according to Canadian offer	Favourable compared to major cities in Europe	Favourable compared to major cities in Europe
11(c). Quality of life and living conditions	Very favourable[8]	Very favourable; see pages 5-6 of German offer	Very favourable[9]

[7] UN Consolidated Post Adjustment Calculation Effective 1 March 1996: Montreal = 113. See page 12 of Canadian offer for details.

[8] UNDP Human Development Report 1996 ranks Canada first in world. (Human Development Index measures a country's achievements in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income.)

[9] Climatic conditions, important elements in quality of life, are following: Mean annual temperature: 17.9°C, maximum mean temperature: 24.1°C, minimum mean temperature: 11.6°C, days of sun in the year: 103 and hours of sun in the year: 2,991. Information provided on tourism under paragraph 9(g) above is also relevant.

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